

Bridgeway Community Church  
Series: United When Divided  
Dr. David Anderson  
November 01, 2020

## **The Ballads of God's People**

Sunday before the US presidential election

- Vote!

### **The 3 Forces Against Civic Unity/Community Unity**

#### **1** Polarization Caused By Fear

- I go to my group/echo chamber because it makes us feel safe. They think like I do.

#### **2** Politicization Fueled By Anger

- This makes me feel empowered, but fueled by anger
- I need to protect my polarization!

#### **3** Radicalization Enflamed By Injustice

- Emboldened to do whatever it takes by whatever means necessary to stop you from taking away the benefits of my polarized group.
- When someone is radicalized logic no longer makes sense. There is no sense of right and wrong. It feels right because we are enflamed by injustice.

Comprehension begins with conversation.

- If we can sit down and begin talk to one another, a bridge can be built.
- It doesn't end there! It's got to lead to transformation/change - change in our heart, change in our minds, change in our politics, change in our actions

### The 3 Forces Advancing Civic Unity/Community Unity

## 1 Personalization of Human Stories

- this is not just ideology, it is our real lives
- you can't discount someone's story

**Practical Application:** Tell your story!

## 2 Humanization of One Race Over Many

Acts 17:26

**From one man he made every nation** of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.

We are NOT many races, we are one race - the human race.

- The Human Genome Project - 99.9% identical DNA of every human being

We've got to humanize one another. We cannot continue to dehumanize and demonize other people as if there's something different.

**Practical Application:** Vote as a 'Every Nation' Christian - we must advocate for every ethnic group that's a part of our country.

### 3 Democratization of Free Thinking

Good democracy makes room for differences of opinions and perspectives

Good Christianity makes NO room for hate, for abuse, for bullying, for racism/injustice

Romans 13:1-2

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

How do you square Romans 13 with Moses resisting Pharaoh, Daniel in the lion's den, 3 Hebrew boys in the fiery furnace, Peter in Acts 5:29?

Acts 5:29

Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"

Convictions - Clear Conscience - Consequences

- Jesus was willing to submit to the government punishment for his resistance
- Jesus never took up arms against the government

We must resist but we've got to do it biblically and peacefully and be willing to take the consequences for it without ever taking up arms.

Voting is NOT a biblical concept, neither is democracy - not saying it is unbiblical, it is just NOT a concept that is in the Bible ordained by God.

Look at issues as a believer and make your decision based on your conscience and based on the scriptures.

- abortion, same sex marriage, poverty, injustices, economy, systemic racism, taxes

Romans 13:6-8

This is also why you pay **taxes**, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. <sup>7</sup>Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe **taxes**, pay **taxes**; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. <sup>8</sup>**Let no debt remain outstanding**, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.

Our national debt is over 30 trillion dollars! Stop whining about paying your taxes!

Who to vote for? Vote for whoever you want. Whoever you think will help the most people are represent the heart of God.

**Practical Application:** Vote!

